

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 609

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Gus B. "Barry" White, III,
of Union City.

WHEREAS, it was with great sadness and a profound sense of loss that the members of this General Assembly and the citizens of our state learned of the death of Barry White; and

WHEREAS, Barry White was a distinguished citizen of the state of Tennessee who was very dedicated to his profession, community and family; and

WHEREAS, he will live forever in our hearts as a loving and generous gentleman who dedicated his life to the betterment of his community; and

WHEREAS, a native of Union City, Barry White was born on August 21, 1932, to Gus B. and Mary Virginia White; and

WHEREAS, he was educated in the Union City public schools and at the Sewanee Military Academy; and

WHEREAS, Barry also attended the University of the South and the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, where he was a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity; and

WHEREAS, in 1953, Mr. Barry White graduated from the John A. Gupton School of Mortuary Science; and

WHEREAS, Barry White proudly defended his nation by serving in the United States Army, where he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the 11th Airborne Division; and

WHEREAS, Barry returned home to Union City to assume his duties at the family-owned White-Ranson Funeral Home, where he was named executive vice president in 1964 and president in 1977; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. White served with distinction on numerous professional boards and organizations, including the Tennessee Funeral Directors Association , of which he was President in 1967, as President of the Tennessee State Board of Funeral Embalmers in 1976, and as Chairman of the Board of Advisors of the International Funeral Association; and

WHEREAS, in 1967, Barry White was named Tennessee's Outstanding Funeral Director, in addition to being named Outstanding Funeral Director in the South and Southeast; and

WHEREAS, he also served the community as the Obion County Coroner; and

WHEREAS, Barry White was always actively involved in civic affairs; he was a stalwart supporter of former Governor Ned McWherter and served as Congressman Robert A. Everett's field representative and close advisor; and

WHEREAS, he also was a colonel on the staffs of governors Frank Clement, Buford Ellington, Lamar Alexander and Ned McWherter; and

WHEREAS, Barry White was a founder of the First State Bank and astutely served on the Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, for his sterling efforts in the community, Mr. White received numerous honors and accolades, including Union City's Outstanding Young Man of 1957 award, the 1988 Outstanding Citizen of Obion County award, given by the Jaycees; he was also a finalist for the Jefferson Award for Outstanding Community Service in 1989 and 1992; and

WHEREAS, Barry White was a valued member of the Union City Jaycees, the Union City Masonic Lodge 538, and the Union City Rotary Club, where he was a Paul Harris Fellow; and

WHEREAS, a former Eagle Scout, Barry White contributed his time and immeasurable talents as a Boy Scout troop leader; and

WHEREAS, Barry White was an active and devout member of the First United Methodist Church, and participated in the Character Builders Sunday School Class and admirably served on the church's Administrative Board; and

WHEREAS, the legacy Barry White leaves behind will be remembered and treasured by friends and associates for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, Barry enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Lois; was the proud father of Mary Hellen White Johnson, Bart White and Skipper White, the father-in-law of David Johnson, Jean Ann White and Lou Anne White; the loving grandfather of Josh Johnson, Angie Johnson, Ashley White, Anna White, Brett White and Benjamin White and the brother of Dale White Hamilton, Dorothy White Rice and Phillip H. White; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body pause in its deliberations to remember the exemplary life of this fine Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Barry White, remembering with admiration his exemplary character and many selfless contributions to the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Barry White.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.